GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3394
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
PUBLIC HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada;Owaisi Shri Asaduddin;Saradgi Shri Iqbal Ahmed;Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has expressed serious concern over the pitiable state of public health care system in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or being taken by Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c) Hon. Supreme Court in Appeal (civil) 1949 of 2004 Samira Kohli v/s. Dr.Prabha Manchanda and another vide judgment dated 16.1.2008 has examined the implications of 'informed consent' in the context of a doctor-patient relationship and made a reference to the public health system.

Under the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP), health care is one of the thrust areas.The main vehicle for rejuvenating the Public Health delivery system is National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which has been operationalised all over the country from 12th April 2005.The main aim of NRHM is to provide accessible, affordable, accountable, effective and reliable primary health care, especially, to the rural poor and vulnerable sections of the population The key strategies under NRHM include increasing public expenditure on health, improving infrastructure,pooling resources, induction of management and financial personnel, and operationalising functional facilities which meet the Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) at various levels.